

NEWS RELEASE
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ISTOOK GETS DEFICIT-REDUCTION HONORS

Washington, D.C. - Rep. Ernest Istook, (R-OK), today was honored by the Concord Coalition for his deficit-cutting votes in the last Congress.

Former U.S. Senators Paul Tsongas and Warren Rudman, co-chairs of the Concord Coalition, released the organization's annual deficit reduction scorecard today at a reception honoring Istook and certain other members of Congress. The scorecard rates the performance of each member of Congress on key roll call votes in the 103rd Congress that affected the federal budget deficit.

The Concord Coalition focused on key votes, including votes to:

- * Balance the Budget (failed to pass in the 103rd, passed this year);
- * Forcing European allies to share costs of defense of Europe;
- * Finding money to pay for disaster relief;
- * Bar nonemergency-spending from disaster bills; and,
- * Cut specific courthouse projects, the space station project, and other unnecessary programs.

Rep. Istook scored in the 94th percentile of deficit hawks, the highest score of the Oklahoma delegation in the last Congress.